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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /115 W

049877

P R 081600Z JUL 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0448

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT CAIRO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/C	
REVIEWED BY <u>R. L. Dowell, Jr.</u>	DATE <u>4/30/86</u>
CLASSIFICATION <u>SECRET</u>	EXT. DATE <u>04/11/86</u>
TS AUTH. <u>J. Burke</u>	REASON(S) <u>CDC MEMO</u>
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	<u>5/13/83</u>
DECLASSIFIED ☐	RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☒	IN PART
PA OF FOI EXEMPTIONS <u>B: A5 B9</u>	

CONFIDENTIAL BAGHDAD 0393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSE Z PINS 12

SUBJ: AFTERMATH OF ABORTIVE COUP

REF: BAGHDAD 0380 AND 0383

1. SUMMARY: FIRST EXECUTIONS OCCURED JULY 7 AND MORE EXPECTED. NO FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT APPARENT. RUMORED ARRESTS OF HIGH PARTY OFFICIALS AND BEHAVIOR OF REGIME SUGGEST BITTER INTRA-BAATH GANG WARFARE TAKING PLACE WITH LITTLE IDEOLOGICAL MOTIVATION; WINNERS LIKELY TO INHERIT WEAKENED REGIME. ARMY ROLE STILL AN UNKNOWN. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, DG OF SECURITY NAZEM KZAR AND 22 LESSER SECURITY OFFICIALS EXECUTED AT NOON JULY 7
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AFTER BEING TRIED IN SECRET BY SPECIAL COURT. ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THIS WAS ONLY "FIRST BATCH." LATE JULY 8 RADIO ANNOUNCED 13 MORE SECURITY OFFICIALS EXECUTED.

3. THERE ARE WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT ARRESTS HAVE INCLUDED HIGH BAAATH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING ABDOUL KHALEQ AL-SAMMARRAI AND MOHAMMAD FADHEZU BOTH MEMBERS OF REGIONAL COMMAND; PRESIDENT

OF TRADE UNION MOHAMMAD AYESHI AND SEVERAL LEADERS OF UNION OF IRAQI STUDENTS. MININFO HAMID AL-JEBBOURI REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED ON JULY 5. RADIO REPORTS SAMMARRAI SENTENCED JULY 8 TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

4. MOST OBSERVERS STILL PUZZLED OVER MEN AND MOTIVES INVOLVED. ONLY TWO ELEMENTS SEEM CLEAR: (A) NO FOREIGN POWER ALLEGED TO BE INVOLVED NOR IS THERE EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT. THERE IS HOWEVER INDICATION THAT SOVIETS MAY WISH TO EXPLOIT NEW SITUATION BY INTER ALIA OBTAINING GREATER ROLE FOR ICP IN RETURN FOR RENEWAL OF SUPPORT. (BAGHDAD 0389). (B) POPULATION SEEMS UNINVOLVED. NEITHER SIDE HAS APPEALED TO THE "STREET" AND BAGHDAD HAS BEEN NORMAL THROUGHOUT CRISIS WITH EXCEPTION OF OCCASIONAL SIGHT OF ARMED MEN SURROUNDING A HOUSE AT NIGHT WITH GUNS AT READY. ATTITUDE OF AVERAGE IRAQI APPEARS TO BE THAT ONE FACTION OF BAAATH NO BETTER THAN ANOTHER SO HE HAS NO STAKE IN OUTCOME.

5. BEYOND THESE TWO GENERALIZATIONS, ALL ELSE IS SPECULATION. PRESIDENT BAKR CONTINUES TO APPEAR AS FIGUREHEAD BUT SOME, ~~WHO~~ BELIEVE HE IS STILL FORCE TO RECKON WITH. MININTERIOR GHAIIDAN REPORTED TO BE PARTLY PARALYZED AND GOING ABROAD FOR REST AND TREATMENT. SADDAM HUSSEIN IS ONLY LEADER WHO CONTINUES TO APPEAR ALMOST DAILY IN PUBLIC. HE HAS CLAIMED NO MILITARY INVOLVED, BUT REAL ROLE OF ARMY REMAIN UNKNOWN. ARMY CAN HARDLY BE PLEASED THAT NET RESULT THUS

FAR IS EFFECTIVE REMOVAL OF TWO OF THREE GENERALS FROM RCC.

6. HYPOTHESIS THAT SEEMS MOST VALID AT THIS TIME IS THAT RIVALS OF SADDAM HUSSEIN ACTED BECAUSE THEY FEARED HIS GROWING POWER. DIFFERENCES, SUCH AS THOSE OVER KURDS, SUPPORT FOR FEDAYEEN, AND PRAGMATIC POLICY TOWARD WEST, PERHAPS USED AGAINST HIM, BUT

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REAL MOTIVE MORE LIKELY WAS NAKED BID FOR POWER.

(b)(1)
(a)(5)

7. IF PRESS MAKES QUERIES ON EXECUTIONS, I RECOMMEND DEPT
REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING ON GROUNDS IT PURELY INTERNAL MATTER.
NO REFERENCE SHOULD, IN ANY CASE, BE MADE TO USINT REPORTING.
LOWRIE

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